

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

General Session of the Commission, Washington, D.C., 9–13 May, 2007, in conjunction with the 29th IUBS General Assembly.

Present: Prof. Brothers (President), Commissioners Dr Alonso-Zarazaga, Prof. Bock, Prof. Bouchet, Prof. Fautin, Dr Grygier, Dr Krell, Dr Kullander, Prof. Lamas, Prof. Lim, Prof. Mawatari, Dr Pape, Prof. Patterson, Dr Pyle, Prof. Rosenberg, Mr van Tol and Dr Zhang. Dr Polaszek (Executive Secretary) and Dr Coppard (Development Officer) were present from the ICZN Secretariat. Observers: Dr Agosti (European Association for Zoological Nomenclature – EAZN); Mr Remsen (Global Biodiversity Information Facility – GBIF); Dr Segers (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences).

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Commissioners Dr Bogutskaya, Dr Halliday, Prof. Kerzhner, Dr Kottelat, Dr Macpherson, Dr Mahnert, Prof. Minelli, Dr Ng, Dr Papp, Prof. Song and Prof. Štys.

2. The Commission noted the Executive Secretary's Report to IUBS covering the years 2004–2006, presented to the 29th IUBS General Assembly.

3. *Impending vacancies for six new Commissioners*

By August of this year (2007), three Commissioners will have either reached the end of their maximum term of service, or retired: Prof. Bock (U.S.A.: Aves), Dr Macpherson (Spain: Crustacea), and Dr Mahnert (France: Ichthyology). Furthermore, two vacancies remain on the Commission, making a total of six potential positions to be filled. It was noted and agreed that a call for nominations of new Commissioners would be published in the September 2007 issue of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

4. *Nominations for new Council members*

ICZN Council members are each elected for a term of six years (ICZN Bylaw 13(a)). The most recent appointment of an ICZN Council member was in April 2001, and so all terms of office for ICZN Councillors have now lapsed. Nominations for Council members were therefore requested and six nominations were received from Commissioners present at the Session. It was agreed that a request for nominations for new Council members would be sent to all Commissioners not present at the General Session.

The date for election of four Council members (i.e. in addition to the incoming President and Vice-President) is here set as 1 November 2007 (Bylaw 11(b)). Under the One-Month rule (Bylaw 13(b)), nominations from Commissioners should reach the Secretariat by 31 August 2007 (n.b. a request for nominations for Council members was sent to all Commissioners prior to 31 July 2007).

5. *Election of ICZN President*

Under ICZN Bylaw 19, Prof. Brothers (as Vice-President) assumed the ICZN Presidency following the resignation of former ICZN President Dr Evenhuis. As Vice-President, Prof Brothers "...shall become the President and shall serve as President for the remainder of the latter's term of office". The current President's term of office expires on 17 November 2007. Council, once elected on 1 November 2007, will therefore be required under Bylaw 11(b) to propose two nominees for the Office of President.

6. *Election of ICZN Vice-President*

Because of Bylaw 19 (see “5” above) the Vice Presidency of ICZN has been vacant since 10 May 2005. Under Bylaw 12, Council, once elected on 1 November 2007, will propose two nominees for the Office of Vice-President.

7. *Formation of Committees*

Under Bylaw 16, the President appoints all ICZN Committees. The following Committees were established, with the following membership. It was agreed that the ICZN Executive Secretary would ask Commissioners not present at the General Session to consider joining the Committees formed.

It was proposed that Mr Lynn Raw be asked to form online discussion groups for each committee.

7.1 *ICZN 5th Code Committee*

The following Commissioners (and non-ICZN nominees) agreed to serve on the 5th Code Committee, with the approval of the President: Dr Alonso-Zarazaga; Dr Ballerio (Brescia, Italy); Prof. Bouchet; Prof. Brothers; Prof. Fautin; Dr Kottelat; Dr Krell; Prof. Lamas; Dr Pape; Dr Polaszek; Dr Pyle; Dr Rosenberg; Dr Thompson. Dr Polaszek will solicit the involvement of Commissioners not present at the Washington General Session to serve on the 5th Code Committee.

It was proposed that production of the 5th edition of the Code could be based on a “wiki” procedure, with the Commission having a 2/3 majority vote on what would be acceptable.

The official language of the next Code was also discussed, with a majority of Commissioners present favouring English-only.

The possibility of issuing an interim version of the Code prior to the 5th edition, and incorporating a number of currently proposed amendments, was also discussed. This could be referred to as the “4th Edition: revised printing”.

7.2 *ICZN Committee on ZooBank/Lists of available names in zoology*

The following Commissioners (and non-ICZN nominees) agreed to serve on the ZooBank/Lists Committee: Dr Agosti (EAZN observer); Dr Alonso-Zarazaga; Dr Coppard; Prof. Fautin; Dr Krell; Dr Kullander; Prof. Lim; Dr Pape; Prof. Patterson; Dr Pyle; Mr Remsen (GBIF observer); Dr Rosenberg; Mr van Tol; Dr Zhang. Dr Polaszek will solicit the involvement of Commissioners not present at the Washington General Session to serve on the ZooBank/Lists Committee.

The idea of forming taxon specialist groups was proposed by Prof. Bock, and agreed in principle.

7.3 *ICZN-BZN Associate Editors Committee*

It was agreed that all Commissioners would immediately become BZN Associate Editors. A procedure whereby all Commissioners would review the acceptability of Cases proposed prior to any editing by the Secretariat was agreed. The procedure agreed was that three Commissioners would review each Case received and decide on its suitability for processing. It was further agreed that all general enquiries would go to an e-mail Commission discussion list.

8. *ZooBank – animal name registration*

A series of presentations took place in the Baird Auditorium of the Smithsonian Institution on the afternoon of 11 May 14.00–17.00. Dr Alfred Gardner, President of the American Association for Zoological Nomenclature (AAZN), introduced presentations by Prof. David Patterson (ICZN Commissioner), Mr David Remsen

(GBIF) and Dr Rich Pyle (ICZN Commissioner), followed by presentations from Dr Donat Agosti (EAZN) and Prof. Philippe Bouchet (ICZN Commissioner).

9. *ICZN Memorandum of Cooperation, and other affiliations*

It was noted that since the last General Session, ICZN has become an Associate Participant of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (since July 2005) and a member of the Taxonomic Databases Working Group (since September 2006). 120 organisations have now signed the ICZN Memorandum of Cooperation.

10. "Systema Naturae 250" *Paris*

Prof. Jean-Marc Jallon (Université Paris XI) gave a brief introduction to the planned 20th International Congress of Zoology due to take place in Paris from 26–29 August 2008, in which the ICZN symposium "Systema Naturae 250" will play an important role.

11. *IUBS–ICZN business*

It was noted that the following IUBS programmes were closed during the 29th General Assembly: Systematics, Bionomenclature.

Following the election of ICZN Executive Secretary to the IUBS Executive Committee, the involvement of ICZN in the 2009 Darwin bicentenary celebrations was proposed and supported.

As the ICZN General Session was planned to coincide with the IUBS General Assembly, both Prof. Fautin (Commissioner) and Dr Polaszek (Executive Secretary) participated in IUBS activities. An opportunity was taken on 13 May to ratify Declaration 44 – the amendment to Article 74.7.3. The assembly members present voted unanimously for ratification. This was followed by ratification of all new Commissioners elected since previous IUBS ratification, including the 10 elected in August 2006. Dr Polaszek was elected to the Executive Committee of IUBS following nominations by Prof. Brothers (ICZN) and Prof. van Lenteren (President, International Organisation for Biological Control).

12. *The Code: Higher categories, stems and endings*

On May 12 Dr Alonso-Zarazaga gave presentations on how higher taxonomic categories could be governed by the Code, and animal name stems and endings. He suggested several amendments to the 4th edition of the Code, to be discussed by the 5th Code Committee. The issue of gender agreement was also discussed, in particular the fact that this aspect of the Code is being almost universally ignored by lepidopterists.

13. *Proposed amendments to the current Code*

Two important amendments to the Code, one concerning the acceptability of electronic publication, the other concerning type specimens, were drafted during the meeting. These proposed amendments are being finalised by Commissioners Dr Rosenberg, Prof. Brothers, Dr Krell, Dr Pape and Dr Pyle, and will be published for comment in December's *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

14. *Conclusion*

The President thanked all those present during the course of the meeting, and those who had sent discussion papers. The dates for the next ICZN General Session were set as 26–29 August 2008.



ICZN Commissioners' General Session, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. 11 May 2007. Left to right: Jan van Tol, Philippe Bonchet, Walter Bock, Gary Rosenberg, Mark Grygier, Sven Kullander, Denis Brothers (President), Frank-Thorsten Krell (seated), David Patterson, Daphne Fautin, Thomas Pape, Richard Pyle (seated), Miguel Alonso-Zarazaga, Susan Lim, Shunsuke Mawatari (seated), Gerardo Lamas, Zhi-Qiang Zhang.